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Agenda item 21

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 18th, 29th and 36th meetings, on 1 and 15 November and 12 December 2012. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.18, 29 and 36). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/67/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/67/263);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/67/316);

(c) Letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the

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Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (A/67/519).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 1 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/67/SR.18).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59

5. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/67/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

"*Recalling also* the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements as the main outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in 1996, which established the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and adopted a global plan of action to attain those goals,

"*Recalling further* relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and human settlements,

"*Deeply concerned* that the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, has not been sufficient to counter the growth of slums in the developing world,

"*Acknowledging* that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, there are emerging challenges that have greatly increased in significance, such as unprecedented urban population growth in the developing world, the generation of significant levels of greenhouse gases by cities, the adverse effects of climate change on cities, including the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, the growing prevalence of civil conflicts, insecurity and crime affecting urban areas, and increasing social and economic exclusion and inequality,

"*Recognizing* that these challenges may have consequences for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, other internationally agreed development goals and sustainable development, as well as negative impacts on housing, infrastructure, basic services and the quality of life in cities, and

that the urban poor, especially people living in vulnerable situations, including women and children, will be among those most affected by these impacts,

"*Recognizing also* that the ongoing discussions on cities as engines of economic growth and on responding to climate change should not eclipse the fact that current urban development paradigms are failing to address basic human rights in terms of security of tenure and access to water, sanitation and electricity,

"*Underlining* that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate urban infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide the conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

"*Recognizing* that the major urban changes currently taking place also provide an opportunity to revisit the global urban agenda from a future-oriented perspective and to enhance political commitment towards sustainable urban development by promoting effective strategies that encompass the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, within the context of an integrated and balanced approach,

"*Bearing in mind* the need to review the continuing relevance to sustainable urban development of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and other internationally agreed development goals relevant to human settlements, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want',

"*Noting* the ongoing review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, by which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which it decided to convene in 2016, in line with the bidecennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a 'New Urban Agenda', which should build on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant

internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits, and by which it decided to consider before the end of 2012 the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in a most efficient and effective manner,

"*Recalling further* its invitation to the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

"2. *Reaffirms its decision* to convene the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) at the summit level in the first half of 2016 for a duration of no more than five days, and in this regard accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of [ ] to host the summit in [ ] 2016;

"3. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

"4. *Decides* that the conference will be called the 'World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)', that it will be organized at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other high-level representatives, and that its theme will be 'Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization';

"5. *Also decides* to establish a preparatory committee for the World Summit, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of the European Union in its capacity as observer, Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities, and members of other organizations of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes;

"6. *Further decides* that the World Summit should focus on the identification of accomplishments, new challenges, opportunities and areas where further efforts are needed through the implementation of a new urban agenda that builds on the principles and gains achieved through the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', and on action-

oriented decisions relevant to those areas, and that should result in renewed political commitment to and support for sustainable urban development and housing, consistent with, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

"7. *Decides* to integrate into the preparatory process for the World Summit the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular those elements that relate to sustainable cities and human settlements;

"8. *Also decides* that the World Summit will result in a concise and focused political document that will ensure a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development while effectively addressing poverty and simultaneously harnessing the economic development potential of cities;

"9. *Encourages* effective contributions from, and the active participation of, all national and local governments and other Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process;

"10. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit shall hold an organizational meeting and three sessions as follows:

"(a) The organizational meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2013, back to back with the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

"(b) The first session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2014, after the seventh session of the World Urban Forum;

"(c) The second session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2015, back to back with the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

"(d) The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee, at which Member States are to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document, will be held in 2016, prior to the World Summit;

"11. *Also decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with the documentation being prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with relevant international organizations on the basis of the results of national assessments and regional preparatory meetings, as well as contributions by Habitat Agenda partners;

"12. *Further decides* that the Preparatory Committee should:

"(a) Have a common approach to support regional and subregional preparatory meetings, to be held in conjunction with meetings of regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible;

"(b) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant intergovernmental organizations who may participate in the World Summit, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"(c) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the World Summit, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"(d) Propose a provisional agenda for the World Summit on the basis of the results of the preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, taking into account also the input of Habitat Agenda partners;

"(e) Propose rules and procedures for the participation of representatives of Habitat Agenda partners in the World Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied at the Habitat II Conference;

"(f) Undertake any other functions that may be required as part of the preparatory process;

"13. *Decides* that, at its organizational meeting to be held in 2013, the Preparatory Committee will:

"(a) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of ten members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected Chair and the others Vice-Chairs, and one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur;

"(b) Consider progress in preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by Habitat Agenda partners;

"(c) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 above, on the specific dates of the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

"(d) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible sub-themes for the World Summit in a timely manner;

"14. *Also decides* that the concise and focused political document prepared by the Preparatory Committee should be submitted for further consideration and adoption by the World Summit and that the document should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to partnership and a higher level of international solidarity and to the accelerated implementation of the new urban agenda;

"15. *Stresses* that the preparatory meetings and the World Summit itself should be transparent and provide for the effective participation of and input from Governments and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities;

"16. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the World Summit, urges international and bilateral donors and countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the bidecennial review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of

representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the World Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners from developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the World Summit itself;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend support to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat as the Secretary-General of the World Summit and head of its secretariat;

"18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process and the World Summit, ensuring inter-agency participation and coherence as well as the efficient use of resources;

"19. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to support, as appropriate, national preparations for the World Summit, upon the request of national authorities;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

"21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)';

"22. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session an item entitled 'Progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)'."

6. At its 36th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/67/L.59), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59.

8. Also at the 36th meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59 (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico, in the course of which he orally corrected the Spanish text of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

10. Also at its 36th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 13).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, the United States of America, the European Union, Canada and Japan (see A/C.2/67/SR.36).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3]

Recognizing the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continue to be a global challenge,

Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[4] and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda,[5] challenges remain, such as, inter alia, the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Cognizant of the fact that these challenges may hinder the work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers, and achieving a safe and healthy living environment for all,

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[1] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

Recognizing that cities are engines of economic growth and that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, they can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling paragraphs 134 to 137 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", on sustainable cities and human settlements,

Noting the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

Recognizing that the World Urban Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Italy and the city of Naples for hosting the sixth session of the Forum from 1 to 6 September 2012,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010 and 66/207 of 22 December 2011, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a follow-up conference to Habitat II, Habitat III,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[7]

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), welcomes the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the conference in Istanbul in 2016, and invites participation in the conference at the highest possible level;

5. *Welcomes* the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the conference and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

6. *Decides* that:

(a) The objective of the conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges, and that the focus of the conference will include, but will not be limited to, the theme "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization", to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process;

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[6] See A/67/316.

[7] A/67/263.

(b) The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document, which shall reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda";

(c) The conference and its preparatory process should take into account and build upon the principles and gains achieved through the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] Agenda 21,[9] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[10] the Habitat Agenda,[5] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[11] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[12] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[13] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[14] as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[3]

7. *Also decides* to establish a Preparatory Committee to carry out the preparations for the conference;

8. *Further decides* that the conference and its Preparatory Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

9. *Decides*, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, that:

(a) The Preparatory Committee will meet three times before the opening of the conference;

(b) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York, for a period of two days, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Nairobi in 2015, for a period of three days, taking full advantage of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(d) The venue and duration of the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting will be considered by the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

(e) The Preparatory Committee, when considering the rules of procedure of the Committee and the provisional rules of procedure of the conference, will take

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[11] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[12] Resolution 55/2.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

into consideration the rules of procedure of Habitat II endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/100 of 20 December 1995 and the established practice of the Assembly;

10. *Also decides* to consider the final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

11. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General of the conference to make proposals to the Preparatory Committee on improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II;

12. *Encourages* stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the conference;

13. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the conference, and in this regard:

(a) Urges international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the Preparatory Committee meetings and in the conference itself;

(b) Invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the Preparatory Committee meetings;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General of the conference, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy-class air tickets, the daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, and to report on the use of the trust fund to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal, for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session, on how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum possible extent;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the completion of the organizational review undertaken by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as appropriate, the outcomes of the governance review process, for consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and encourages the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue their efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN-Habitat;

18. *Welcomes* the progress in the elaboration of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the conference;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 22

Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled:

"Globalization and interdependence:

"(a) Globalization and interdependence;

"(b) International migration and development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 11th meeting, on 18 October 2012. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary record (A/C.2/67/SR.11). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/67/SR.2-6). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 22
Globalization and interdependence

Letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/519)

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/67/439 and Add.1 and 2.

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Item 22 (a)
Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Secretary-General on international challenges for sustainable development: global policy coherence and the role of the United Nations (A/67/274)

Letter dated 16 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/527)

Item 22 (b)
International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/67/254)

Letter dated 7 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/73)

4. At the 11th meeting, on 18 October, an introductory statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/67/SR.11).

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 22 (a)

Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 22 (see A/67/439, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 29th, 30th, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 15 and 21 November, and on 5 and 7 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29, 30, 33 and 34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" (A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1).

3. At its 30th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.3/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 113 to 47, with 5 abstentions (see para. 10, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[1]

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/67/439 and Add.1 and 2.

[1] The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

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In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Ukraine.

5. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Canada, Cyprus (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mexico; a statement was made after the vote by the representative of Cuba (see A/C.2/67/SR.30).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Philippines, subsequently joined by Australia, Canada, Japan, Nigeria and Sri Lanka, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies" (A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1).

7. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1 (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Towards a New International Economic Order

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

Recalling the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as set out in resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), respectively, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, on 1 May 1974,

Recalling also its resolutions 63/224 of 19 December 2008, 64/209 of 21 December 2009 and 65/167 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[2]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[3]

Recalling further the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the development goals and objectives contained therein, and recognizing the vital role played by those conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives,

Stressing the need to fulfil all financing for development commitments, including those contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus[5] and other relevant outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

Noting that there have been systemic challenges to the global economic architecture demanding a review of global economic governance,

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution 65/1.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

Concerned about the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, which have a negative impact on the development prospects of developing countries, threaten to further widen the gap between developed and developing countries, including the technological and income gap, and could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Concerned also in this regard that, in spite of some progress achieved in particular regions, some 200 million people globally are still unemployed and a further 900 million workers live with their families below the two-dollar-a-day poverty line,

Underlining the need for a more sustainable economic growth and recovery, and recognizing that this goal can be achieved through inclusive multilateralism and the equal participation of all countries, as envisioned, inter alia, in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Recognizing that innovative and enhanced approaches to financing for development are needed to address the challenges posed by the current global economic situation, poverty and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing that these approaches should neither be a substitute for nor negatively affect the level of traditional sources of development financing, including official development assistance, and that they need to be developed in a spirit of partnership, cooperation and solidarity, bearing in mind the common interests and national priorities of each country,

Recognizing also that many relevant aspects of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order have not been implemented and that, consequently, many developing countries continue to face significant challenges to their development prospects, including vulnerability to external shocks and lack of adequate representation in global economic governance,

Recognizing further the role played by regional, subregional and interregional cooperation as well as regional economic integration, based on equality of partnership, in strengthening international cooperation with the objective of facilitating economic coordination and cooperation for development, the achievement of development goals and the sharing of best practices and knowledge,

Recognizing that widespread financial deregulation has contributed to larger net capital outflows from developing countries to developed countries,

Concerned that excessively expansionary monetary policies and the ensuing competitive currency devaluations pursued by developed countries have an effect equivalent to across-the-board export subsidy and a generalized increase in import tariffs, which thus nullify or impair existing World Trade Organization market access commitments and further hinder the capacity of developing countries to fulfil their commitments to implement all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the need for policy space to allow the formulation of national development strategies by developing countries, aimed at bringing prosperity for all,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International challenges for sustainable development: global policy coherence and the role of the United Nations";[6]

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among all States;

3. *Also reaffirms* the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

4. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

5. *Decides* to continue considering the international economic situation and its impact on development at its sixty-ninth session, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues, as well as possible ways and means to overcome those challenges, bearing in mind the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the principles contained therein, and the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, in the light of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

[6] A/67/274.

Draft resolution II
Promoting transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011 and its previous resolutions on public administration and development,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Acknowledging that fiscal policies have a critical impact on economic, social and environmental outcomes in all countries at all levels of development,[2]

Emphasizing the need to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of fiscal policies,

Recognizing the critical role that transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies can play in pursuit of financial stability, poverty reduction, equitable economic growth and the achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing also that transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies should be promoted in a manner that is consistent with diverse country circumstances and national legislation,

1. *Takes note* of the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency and its High-level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability of 2012;[3]

2. *Encourages* Member States to intensify efforts to enhance transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies, including through the consideration of the principles set out by the Initiative, on a voluntary basis;

3. *Also encourages* Member States, in this regard, to promote discussions on advancing the common goal of transparent, participatory and accountable management of fiscal policies;

4. *Invites* Member States and relevant United Nations institutions to promote cooperation and information-sharing among all stakeholders to assist Member States in building capacity and exchanging experiences with regard to transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies.

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 63/239.

[3] Sponsored by the Governments of Brazil and the Philippines, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Budget Partnership.

United Nations A/67/439/Add.2

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Agenda item 22 (b)

Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 22 (see A/67/439, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 29th and 38th meetings, on 15 November and 14 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.15 and Rev.1

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/67/L.15), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006, 63/225 of 19 December 2008 and 65/170 of 20 December 2010 on international migration and development, as well as its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007 and 64/166 of 18 December 2009 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/67/439 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome, its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted on 24 December 2008,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Recalling* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document and follow-up,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 and its outcome document entitled 'The future we want',

"*Recalling further* the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

"*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and reiterating the call to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority and the request to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention,

"*Recalling also* the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

"*Recalling further* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,

"*Bearing in mind* the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 high-level dialogue on international migration and development,

"*Acknowledging* that the 2006 high-level dialogue provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

"*Reaffirming* the resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

"*Bearing in mind* the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants, including those perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivations, to investigate such crimes and to punish the perpetrators and that not doing so violates, and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims, and urging States to reinforce measures in this regard,

"*Acknowledging* the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the international level, including at the United Nations, in relation to development,

"*Recalling* that migrant workers are among the most vulnerable in the context of the financial and economic crisis and that remittances, which are significant private financial sources for households, have been negatively affected by rising unemployment and weak earnings growth among migrant workers in some countries of destination,

"*Noting with concern* that in many countries of destination international migrants are experiencing higher unemployment than non-migrants,

"*Recognizing* the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

"*Noting with concern* that the adverse impact, particularly on development, of the ongoing world financial and economic crisis has increased the risk of misperceiving the economic effects of migration as negative, and noting in this regard that national public planning should take account of the positive effects that migration has in the medium to long term,

"*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to continue to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;

"3. *Recognizes* the importance of renewing the political will to act cooperatively and constructively in addressing international migration, including regular and irregular migration, to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration in a balanced, coherent and comprehensive manner and

to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration and development;

"4. *Emphasizes* that respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the benefits of international migration;

"5. *Expresses concern* about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants, as the rights of migrants must be respected at all times without any kind of discrimination;

"6. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

"7. *Welcomes* the programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society, facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages host countries to take appropriate measures aimed at the full integration of long-term migrants staying legally in the country;

"8. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts, including by exploring ways to lower the transfer costs of remittances, garnering the active engagement of expatriates and fostering their involvement in promoting investment in countries of origin and entrepreneurship among non-migrants;

"9. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries in order to address the negative impacts and optimize the potential benefits of such migration;

"10. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including gender and youth perspectives and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way, in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights, as well as in the context of the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

"11. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their efforts to

address migration issues within their respective development strategies in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"12. *Decides* to convene, every three years, a high-level dialogue on migration and development starting in 2013;

"13. *Also decides* to hold a two-day high-level dialogue on migration and development on 3 and 4 October 2013, after the general debate of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, at United Nations Headquarters;

"14. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the high-level dialogue shall be as follows:

"(a) The overall theme of the high-level dialogue on migration and development will be 'Identifying concrete measures that enhance the benefits of international migration, while reducing its costs, for countries of origin, transit and destination and migrants alike';

"(b) The high-level dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and three interactive multi-stakeholder round tables:

"(i) Round table 1 will be held in the afternoon of the first day of the high-level dialogue;

"(ii) Round tables 2 and 3 will be held in the morning and afternoon of the second day of the high-level dialogue;

"(iii) Summaries of the deliberations of the three round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairs of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the high-level dialogue with a particular focus on outcomes and follow-up by the United Nations system and Member States;

"(c) The themes for each of the three round tables will be as follows:

"(i) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development, taking into account the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

"(ii) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, with particular reference to their effects on women and children;

"(iii) Round table 3 will focus on institutional coherence in addressing international migration;

"(d) The three round tables will be co-chaired by one representative from the North and one from the South, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical balance, in consultation with regional groups;

"15. *Decides* that the participation in the high-level dialogue and its preparatory process will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

"16. *Invites* Member States and observers to participate in the high-level dialogue at the highest possible level;

"17. *Invites* the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, to participate in the high-level dialogue and its preparatory process;

"18. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to participate to the preparation of the high-level dialogue;

"19. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the high-level dialogue and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"20. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant intergovernmental organizations and entities who may participate in the high-level dialogue, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

"21. *Decides* that the high-level dialogue shall result in an intergovernmentally negotiated outcome document, and requests the President of the General Assembly to convene informal consultations at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the high-level dialogue;

"22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries;

"23. *Invites* the regional commissions and their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system as well as the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the high-level dialogue;

"24. *Invites* Member States, through appropriate regional consultative processes and, as appropriate, other major initiatives in the field of international migration, including on international migration and development, to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

"25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled 'Globalization and interdependence', the sub-item entitled 'International migration and development';

"26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 38th meeting, on 14 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/67/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement (see A/C.2/67/SR.38).

6. Also at the 38th meeting, the representative of Suriname, in his capacity as the facilitator of the revised draft resolution, orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.38).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.15/Rev.1, as orally corrected, by a recorded vote of 110 to 2, with 46 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. Before the vote, the representative of Algeria made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; statements in explanation of vote were made before the vote by the representatives of the United States of America, Cyprus (on behalf of the European Union) and China (see A/C.2/67/SR.38).

9. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Switzerland and Norway; a statement after the vote was made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/67/SR.38).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006, 63/225 of 19 December 2008 and 65/170 of 20 December 2010 on international migration and development, as well as its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007 and 66/172 of 19 December 2011 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and recalling also Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,[1]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[3]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[7] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[7] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[8] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[9]

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Resolution 60/1.

[3] Resolution 65/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] Resolution 217 A (III).

[6] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[10] and reiterating the call to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Recalling also the importance of the Decent Work Agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

Recalling further the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 high-level dialogue on international migration and development,[11] and taking note of the summary by the President of the Assembly of the informal thematic debate on international migration and development held on 19 May 2011,

Acknowledging that the 2006 high-level dialogue provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

Acknowledging also the contribution of the informal thematic debate, held in 2011, to the discussions on international migration and development,

Recognizing the contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches,

Acknowledging the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the international level, including at the United Nations, in relation to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Decides* to hold a two-day high-level dialogue on international migration and development on 3 and 4 October 2013, after the general debate of the sixty eighth session of the General Assembly, at United Nations Headquarters;

3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the high-level dialogue shall be as follows:

(a) The overall theme of the high-level dialogue on international migration and development will be "Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications";

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[10] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[11] A/61/515.
[12] A/67/254.

(b) The high-level dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables:

(i) Round tables 1 and 2 will be held in the morning and afternoon of the first day of the high-level dialogue;

(ii) Round tables 3 and 4 will be held in the morning and afternoon of the second day of the high-level dialogue;

(iii) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the Chairs of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the high-level dialogue;

(c) The themes for each of the four round tables will be as follows:

(i) Round table 1 will focus on assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the post-2015 development framework;

(ii) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well as to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to ensure orderly, regular and safe migration;

(iii) Round table 3 will focus on strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels;

(iv) Round table 4 will focus on international and regional labour mobility and its impact on development;

(d) Each of the four round tables will be co-chaired by two representatives, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard for geographical balance, in consultation with regional groups;

4. *Further decides* that the participants in the high-level dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

5. *Invites* Member States and observers to participate in the high-level dialogue at the highest possible level;

6. *Invites* the Holy See and the State of Palestine, in their capacity as observer States, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, to participate in the high-level dialogue and its preparatory process;

7. *Invites* all relevant entities of the United Nations system and relevant special rapporteurs and representatives, as well as the International Organization for Migration and other relevant international organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly, to contribute to the preparation of and to participate in the high-level dialogue;

8. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant intergovernmental organizations and entities who may participate in the high-level dialogue, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration in accordance with past practice;

9. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the high-level dialogue and the one-day informal interactive hearings provided for in paragraph 11 below;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the high-level dialogue;

11. *Decides* to hold one-day informal interactive hearings in 2013 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to be organized and presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the high-level dialogue in September 2013;

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level dialogue and the one-day informal interactive hearings, on the basis of recommendations by the Secretary-General in respect of their specific expertise and involvement in international migration and development issues, taking into account geographical representation; the list will be considered by the Member States on a non-objection basis no later than one month prior to the hearings provided for in paragraph 11 above;

13. *Decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping having been selected during the informal interactive hearings, are to be included by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the high-level dialogue, time permitting, and also decides that the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, will determine the list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and private sector representatives that can participate in each of the round tables of the high-level dialogue, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation;

14. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Secretariat and with support from interested Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to organize, prior to the high-level dialogue, a panel discussion with a focus on its overall theme, complementary to and taking into account other preparatory initiatives relating to the high-level dialogue;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with inputs from the members of the Global Migration Group and other relevant entities, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries;

16. *Invites* the regional commissions and their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Organization for Migration and the Council of the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the high-level dialogue;

17. *Invites* Member States, through appropriate regional consultative processes and, as appropriate, within other major initiatives in the field of international migration and development, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "International migration and development";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/67/440

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 23

Groups of countries in special situations

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled:

"Groups of countries in special situations:

"(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 9th and 10th meetings, on 17 October 2012. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.9 and 10). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/67/SR.2-6). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is provided in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/67/440 and Add.1 and 2.

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Item 23
Groups of countries in special situations

Letter dated 10 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (A/67/519)

Item 23 (a)
Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020 (A/67/88-E/2012/75 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries (A/67/262)

Report of the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category (A/67/92)

Item 23 (b)
Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (A/67/210)

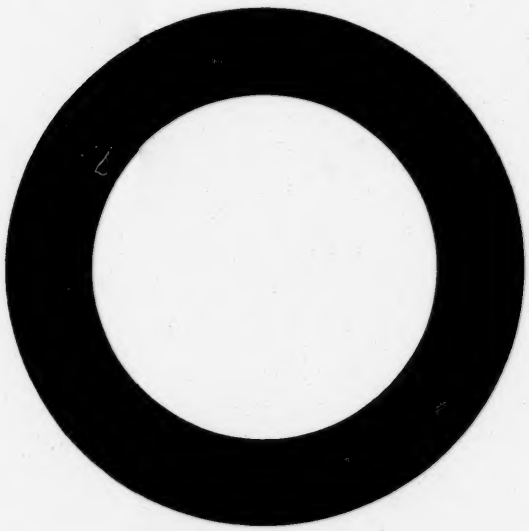
Letter dated 21 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/386)

Letter dated 28 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/489)

Letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/495)

4. At the 9th meeting, on 17 October, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made an introductory statement under sub-items (a) and (b) (see A/C.2/67/SR.9).

5. At the 10th meeting, on 17 October, the representatives of Chile and the Plurinational State of Bolivia made statements in exercise of the right of reply (see A/C.2/67/SR.10).



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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 23 (a)

Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 23 (see A/67/440, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 29th and 34th meetings, on 15 November and 7 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.9 and A/C.2/67/L.53

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/67/L.9), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which

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the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

"*Reaffirming* the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

"*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled 'The future we want',

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

"*Taking note* of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries;

"2. *Expresses serious concern* that after a decade of steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and their economies are projected to grow by an average of 4.1 per cent in 2012, which is far below the target of 7 per cent per annum as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and that this will have a significant impact on the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"3. *Expresses concern* that the impact of the ongoing economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

"4. *Notes* the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full

involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"5. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

"6. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including through implementing scaled-up substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely, long-term, predictable and flexible manner, and to integrate it into their programmes of work and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

"7. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to set up specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariat structures, with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the agency level;

"8. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

"9. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

"10. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

"11. *Expresses serious concern* over the fall of official development assistance to least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011, as

well as the expected stagnation of the growth of core official development assistance between 2013 and 2015, and in this regard, while acknowledging the fulfilment of the official development assistance commitment of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income to least developed countries by some donor countries, calls upon the other donor countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitment to least developed countries without further delay and to align the allocation of official development assistance to the priorities of least developed countries, with a particular focus on productive capacity development;

"12. *Recalls* the decision taken in the Istanbul Programme of Action, with respect to adopting, expanding and implementing investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, for its consideration at its sixty-ninth session, outlining the options and modalities of investment promotion regimes for least developed countries;

"13. *Notes* the efforts made to address the debt problems of the least developed countries, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, expresses concern that the debt vulnerability of many least developed countries has increased markedly, with many of them in a situation of debt stress, or at high risk of debt stress, and in this regard, stresses the need to take effective measures to address the debt problems of the least developed countries;

"14. *Reiterates* the call for necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the impasse in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, and underlines the need for ensuring timely and effective implementation and operationalization of existing commitments to least developed countries on a lasting basis, such as duty-free, quota-free market access and least developed country services waivers, as well as ensuring an early harvest of the development dividend to least developed countries;

"15. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

"16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

"17. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

"18. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

"19. *Recognizes* the need for giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and, in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and in this regard, calls upon the developed countries to review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

"20. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

"21. *Stresses* the need for strengthened coordination and monitoring of and follow-up to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a view to ensuring effective and efficient implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and global levels;

"22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake necessary measures to institutionalize the Inter-Agency Consultative Group mechanism for least developed countries, within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as a standing inter-agency mechanism led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to ensure necessary coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and also invites him, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item in the agenda of the Board;

"23. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its responsibilities under its original mandate, there has been an increase in the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to the least developed countries, and in this regard underlines that the Office of the High Representative needs a substantial amount of resources, including extrabudgetary resources, in order to fulfil its increased responsibilities;

"24. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and requests the Secretary-General to guarantee adequate resources for the Office in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

"25. *Strongly urges* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to substantially increase their extrabudgetary contributions in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

"26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020."

3. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/67/L.53), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Tauhedul Islam (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.9.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Tauhedul Islam (Bangladesh), orally corrected the draft resolution.

6. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

7. At the same meeting, after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Benin, the European Union, Japan and Cuba (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.10 and A/C.2/67/L.51

9. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries" (A/C.2/67/L.10), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, in which Member States committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011, in which it requested the President of the General Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action,

"*Recalling* its resolution 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of, and work done by, the ad hoc open-ended working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category;

"2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, especially section III on progress towards graduation and smooth transition;

"3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress which that country has achieved; and in this regard recognizes that the graduation process of least developed countries should be coupled with an appropriate package of incentives and support measures;

"4. *Urges* graduating countries and all bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to pursue or intensify their efforts, consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the full implementation of resolution 59/209, with a view to ensuring the smooth transition of graduating least developed countries;

"5. *Invites* development and trading partners of least developed countries to make available information about smooth transition measures, in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and preferential market access, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

"6. *Emphasizes* that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated by each graduating country under national leadership, involving, as appropriate, all stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action and with the support of the international community, and the national smooth transition strategy should present a comprehensive and coherent set of specific and predictable measures in accordance with the priorities of the graduating country, while taking into account its own specific structural challenges and vulnerabilities as well as its strengths;

"7. *Recommends* that the consultative mechanism established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions be integrated with

other regular consultative processes between the graduating country and its development partners;

"8. *Invites* development and trading partners of graduating countries to make efforts so that their bilateral and multilateral strategies and aid programmes fully support the national transition strategy of the respective country;

"9. *Invites* graduating and graduated countries to implement the smooth transition strategy as part of their overall development strategy and to incorporate a smooth transition in relevant documents, such as the poverty reduction strategy papers and the action matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies under the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

"10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to act, if requested, as a facilitator of the consultative process and assist graduating countries in the preparation of their transition strategies;

"11. *Requests* United Nations country teams to provide targeted assistance to graduating countries, including capacity-building initiatives in support of the formulation and implementation of the national transition strategy;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance information-sharing and understanding of available least developed country-specific international support measures, their characteristics and modalities and, in this regard, to continue to make available one consolidated source of online information-sharing;

"13. *Invites* United Nations entities that have committed to allocating a certain percentage of their resources to least developed countries to consider the extension and gradual phasing out of least developed country-specific support to graduated countries for a fixed period of time in a predictable manner, without prejudice to resources available to least developed countries;

"14. *Invites* development and trading partners to include trade-related technical assistance commitments as part of the commitments to be undertaken in the transition strategy, in order to support graduating countries to adjust to the phasing out of trade preferences, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework, Aid for Trade or other instruments;

"15. *Invites* all members of the World Trade Organization to extend, through a waiver applicable to any graduated country, the existing special and differential treatment measures and exemptions available to least developed countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

"16. *Invites* trading partners that have not established procedures for extending or phasing out preferential market access to express, as a general rule or at the consultative mechanism, their commitment to extend their least developed country-specific preferences, the number of years of the extension and the details concerning the gradual phasing out of the measures;

"17. *Invites* least developed country-specific funds of the United Nations system to continue providing technical assistance to graduated countries over a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

"18. *Encourages* organizations of the United Nations system to extend voluntary travel benefits to graduated countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

"19. *Decides* that the long-standing benefit of capped contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations that has been made available to the least developed countries will be extended, if requested, to countries graduating from least developed country status for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, without prejudice to the required minimum contribution to the budget of the United Nations;

"20. *Invites* the Governments of graduated countries to closely monitor, with the support of the consultative mechanism, the implementation of the transition strategy and to provide concise triennial reports on progress made, covering the preparation and implementation of national transition strategies, to the Economic and Social Council;

"21. *Requests* the Committee for Development Policy to review the progress of graduated countries on a yearly basis for three years and every three years thereafter;

"22. *Encourages* graduated countries to provide information to least developed countries on their experiences and lessons learned in the context of graduation with support from the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

"23. *Invites* development partners to consider using the criteria used for the identification of least developed countries, in particular those related to economic vulnerability, for allocating official development assistance;

"24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category."

10. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries" (A/C.2/67/L.51), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Tauhedul Islam (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.10.

11. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the General Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[3]

Recalling also the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,[4]

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020[5] and the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] See resolution 65/1.

[5] A/67/88-E/2012/75 and Corr.1.

implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries;[6]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[3] to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. *Expresses serious concern* that after a decade of welcomed steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and their economies are projected to grow by an average of 4.1 per cent in 2012, which is considerably below the target of 7 per cent per annum as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;[2]

4. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made by many least developed countries in mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to continue their implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

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[6] A/67/262.

7. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by implementing enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely manner, and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

8. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to designate specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariat structures with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the programmes of action at the agency level;

9. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

10. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

12. *Expresses concern* over the fall of official development assistance to least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011, while noting that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries;

13. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency and results orientation;

14. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance

commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries;

15. *Also recalls* the decision, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, to adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes, as appropriate, for least developed countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, for its consideration at its sixty-ninth session, a report focusing on national policies and regulatory frameworks for stimulating foreign direct investment in least developed countries and outlining the options and modalities of investment promotion regimes for least developed countries;

16. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

17. *Reiterates* the call for necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations, and underlines the need for ensuring timely and effective implementation and operationalization of existing commitments to least developed countries on a lasting basis, such as duty-free, quota-free market access;

18. *Notes* the adoption by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 25 July 2012 of the organization's guidelines on the accession of least developed countries;

19. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

20. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

21. *Also reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

22. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

23. *Recalls* that a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status is vital in order to ensure that those countries are eased onto a path towards sustainable development without any abrupt disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects;

24. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those listed in

the Istanbul Programme of Action, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Stresses* the need for strengthened coordination and monitoring of and follow-up to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a view to ensuring effective and efficient implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and global levels;

26. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and invites the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in order to ensure necessary coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the programmes of action on a system-wide basis, and also invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item on the agenda of the Board;

27. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to the least developed countries has increased;

28. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

29. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

Draft resolution II
Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, in which Member States committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking into account its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling its resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011, in which it requested the President of the General Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling also its resolution 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/32 of 27 July 2012 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session,

Emphasizing that graduation from the list of least developed countries is a major milestone for the country involved, as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category;[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[4] especially section III on progress towards graduation and smooth transition;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress which that country has achieved, and in this regard recognizes that the

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[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] A/67/92.

[4] A/67/88-E/2012/75 and Corr.1.

graduation process of least developed countries should include consideration of appropriate incentives and support measures;

4. *Urges* graduating countries and all bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to pursue or intensify their efforts, consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the full implementation of resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring the smooth transition of graduating least developed countries;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of making available information about least developed country-specific support measures and related smooth transition measures, in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and trade-related measures, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance information-sharing and understanding of available least developed country-specific international support measures, their characteristics and modalities, commends, in this regard, the existence of the Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries, which was developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat as a valuable comprehensive tool for online information-sharing, and encourages its continuous updating and improvement;

7. *Emphasizes* that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, during the period between the date the recommendation that the country be graduated is taken note of by the General Assembly and the effective graduation date, under national leadership, involving, as appropriate, all stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] and the support of the international community, and that the national smooth transition strategy should include a comprehensive and coherent set of specific and predictable measures that are in accordance with the priorities of the graduating country, while taking into account its own specific structural challenges and vulnerabilities as well as its strengths;

8. *Recommends* that the consultative mechanism, specified in resolution 59/209, be established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy, the identification of the associated actions and the negotiation of their duration and phasing out for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, and that it be integrated with other relevant consultative processes and initiatives between the graduating country and its development partners;

9. *Reiterates its call upon* development and trading partners of graduating countries to make efforts so that their bilateral and multilateral strategies and aid programmes support the national transition strategy of the respective country;

10. *Decides* to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the list of least developed countries, as well as the inclusion of countries in that list, at the first session of the General Assembly following the adoption of such decisions by the Council;

11. *Invites* graduating and graduated countries to implement the smooth transition strategy as part of their overall development strategy and to incorporate it into relevant documents, including the poverty reduction strategy papers and the action matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies under the Enhanced

Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

12. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to provide, if requested, the support of the Resident Coordinator as a facilitator of the consultative process, and to assist graduating countries in the preparation of their transition strategies;

13. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to provide targeted assistance, including capacity-building, to graduating countries, if requested, through the United Nations country teams, in line with the existing mandates and resources, in support of the formulation and implementation of the national transition strategy;

14. *Invites* United Nations entities that have committed to allocating a certain percentage of their resources to least developed countries to consider the extension and gradual phasing-out of least developed country-specific support to graduated countries for a fixed period of time, in a predictable manner, and applied according to the specific development situation of each graduating country;

15. *Invites* development and trading partners to consider the inclusion of trade-related technical assistance as part of the commitments to support each country's transition strategy in order to help graduating countries to adjust to the phasing-out of trade preferences, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework, Aid for Trade or other instruments;

16. *Reiterates* its invitation to all members of the World Trade Organization to consider extending to graduated countries the existing special and differential treatment measures and exemptions available to least developed countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

17. *Invites* trading partners that have not established procedures for extending or phasing out preferential market access, inter alia, duty-free and quota-free treatment, to clarify in a predictable manner, as a general measure or at the consultative mechanism, their position with regard to the extension of the least developed country-specific preferences, the number of years of the extension or the details concerning the gradual phasing-out of the measures;

18. *Invites* least developed country-specific funds of the United Nations system to continue providing technical assistance to graduated countries in a phased out manner over a limited period of time, and as appropriate to the development situation of the country, from within existing resources;

19. *Encourages* organizations of the United Nations system to extend voluntary travel benefits to graduated countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country from within existing resources and for a maximum of three years from the date of graduation;

20. *Invites* the Governments of graduating countries, with the support of the consultative mechanism, to report annually to the Committee for Development Policy on the preparation of the transition strategy and, after graduation becomes effective, to provide concise annual reports on the implementation of the smooth transition strategy for a period of three years, and triennially thereafter, as a

complement to the two triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries carried out by the Committee for Development Policy;

21. *Requests* the Committee for Development Policy to monitor the development progress of graduated countries, in consultation with the Governments of those countries, on a yearly basis for a period of three years after graduation becomes effective and triennially thereafter, as a complement to two triennial reviews of the list of the least developed countries, and to include its findings in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council;

22. *Encourages* least developed countries to interact with graduated countries in order to obtain information on, discuss their experiences and share lessons learned in the context of graduation with support from the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

23. *Invites* development partners to consider least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation, the effectiveness and the added value of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.